

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT The Circulation of Counterfeit Dollar Bills in Rumania

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REFERENCES

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1. The appearance of large quantities of excellently counterfeited United States dollar bills on the very active Bucharest black market was confirmed early in November 1953. Large numbers of the bills had already been sold to high-ranking Rumanian officials before the fraud was confirmed. In spite of official prosecutions these officials always display the greatest interest in foreign exchange. The counterfeit bills differ from the genuine bills only in the somewhat heavier impression of the lower row of numbers in comparison to the upper row. It is reported that the bills were produced by a government currency printing shop for use in western countries but that they were thrown on the black market by a number of higher ranking defense department officials for the purpose of personal gain.
2. After the falsification was detected [] a well known Bucharest black market dealer, was arrested. Upon the intercession of influential Soviet officials in Bucharest he was released after a few days imprisonment. [] chief supplier of contraceptives for the wives of Soviet officials and has the best of contacts with the highest-ranking Soviet officials.

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